



ZOOLOG

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Dieter Schwanke, 1968



A young Pelican

A wonderful bird is the Pelican,
His bill will hold more than his belican.
He can take in his beak
Food enough for a week,
But I'm damned if I see how the helican.

Dixon Lanier Merritt

SEPTEMBER, 1968

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Free to members of the Zoological Society of Manitoba

Visiting The Refuge

If you visit the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge and want to insure seeing whooping cranes during their winter stay, we recommend a boat trip. The Sea Gun Sports Inn operates the motor vessel "Whooping Crane" that cruises the bays. The Captain is well acquainted with the behavior of birds of the Gulf Coast and skilled in approaching areas to allow taking those "once-in-a-life-time" pictures. For information write to the Sea Gun Sports Inn, Star Route 1, Box 85, Rockport, Texas 78382.

A number of our members stopped at the Sea Gun Sports Inn as part of their trip to our last annual meeting in Houston. We have heard nothing but extremely favourable reports on the fine treatment and accommodations they received at the Inn. Some of them enjoyed the boat trip so much they stayed over to make it a second time. My wife and I accompanied Dr. and Mrs. L. H. Walkinshaw, and Robert Grant on one of these cruises and we saw nineteen whooping cranes at quite close range. The skipper has a good sense of humor and goes to great lengths to make everyone aboard happy.

From "Grus Americana"

**The editor of
Zoolog will gladly
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to the Zoological
Society of Manitoba.**

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President's Message

In spite of the budgetary cuts by Metro that have resulted in somewhat less expansion at the Assiniboine Park Zoo than many of us hoped for, it is remarkable to see what has been accomplished this summer in many small projects. At the request of Dr. Gunter Voss, our Zoo Director, I made a tour of the Zoo one evening in late August with him, and perhaps because I had not been to the Zoo since June quite a number of newly completed projects were in evidence.

We perhaps have never had a better summer for growing grass and shrubs and I think that improvements in this direction were most in evidence. Several smaller hoofstock paddocks have been contoured with hills, some of the new large paddocks which were completed last year now have a good catch of grass. The straight lines have been taken out of the walkways and shrubbery has been planted to relieve the old bowling alley appearance.

Personally, I am even impressed with the appearance of the new concession stand. I have heard the criticism that this building does not fit particularly well into the landscape, my own impression is that the building is creative in its design reminiscent somewhat of much of the architecture we saw at Expo last year.

All in all, I am mightily impressed with the "new look" which our Zoo is beginning to assume. Just one note of criticism however, there continue to be 3 small kiosks, sprinkled here and there about the Zoo grounds, which were put into service before the new concession building was completed. None of these three buildings conform architecturally into what is being done at the Zoo and, in fact, they have a rather garish appearance. With a large new concession building now in full operation I will be recommending to Metro that these 3 temporary kiosks be dismantled as soon as possible.

Much of the credit for what has been accomplished this summer, on a very limited budget, must go to Dr. Voss, Guenter Schoch, Metro Landscapist, and undoubtedly others in the Metro organization, who have been able to accomplish so much with limited financial resources this year.

Men now begin to realize what as wandering shepherds
they had before dimly suspected
that man has a right to the use, not the abuse,
of the products of nature;

George Perkins Marsh, 1847



The horny protuberance appears only in breeding season.

An Expedition

Their thoughts went back to the glorious day in May when the President of the Zoological Society of Manitoba, George Heffelfinger, announced at the annual meeting that volunteers may sign up to go north on a Pelican catching expedition.

Now they were huddled in little groups. They were freezing in July. Some of them were wet and froze even more. But then the sun made feeble efforts through the clouds. The spirits cheered, and lunch was had by all.

Seventeen of them had met at six a.m. at some forlorn hotel beside the lake from whence they travelled onward to the north. Arriving at a lake not far from Lake Manitoba, canoes were mounted

and the search for fledgling Pelicans a mile or so away was on. The lake was very shallow at the shore and studded with rocks, the sea in this protected area calm. Five men, a CBC producer, and a camera man plus camera amongst them, clambered into the tipsy hull of one and started off.

Once past the rocks, the open sea before them, the waves kept rising, and now and then a crest came overboard. In silence the camera man clutched his beloved and precious instrument and lifted up his arms to save expensive lenses from the spray. An inch or so of water had gathered on the floor and parts of people sitting there were wet and getting wetter. Amongst the whitecaps calmly paddling

they headed straight for the horizon, where Pelicans were seen in graceful flight. That is until a vicious wave washed on the starboard side and doused the expedition leader's pipe, and soaked his wallet. He gave the order to return and members of the crew resumed their breathing.

Professor Roger Evans was with the expedition to band some baby Pelicans to study the great birds' habits. He was on shore and with great forethought had produced some sort of burner and a delightful cup of tea.

The group decided to lie low and wait for calmer seas. The time was spent in idle chatter, in observing birds, in sleep and freezing in the wind. The afternoon arrived and thunderclouds and lightning encroached upon the sky. To save the day four volunteers were mustered and a canoe and one small punt went out. Once on the island, all four would catch the Pelicans and two of them would paddle back with all the birds in the canoe, the two behind would then proceed to band as many little Pelicans as time and storm allowed. An hour later the first set of adventurers arrived on shore with their allotted birds. Another hour later the banders landed and reported successful banding of 57 young Pelicans, the first time Pelicans have been banded here for further study.

With modern zooming lenses the CBC crew took some film, in colour, to be a part of future television's "Zoolog on Camera".

On their way home the convoy stopped at famed East Meadows Ranch and looked around, took pictures of the waterfowl abounding there.

And then they went home, the Pelicans went to the Zoo, and in this issue's Honour Roll appears an item thus:

Zoological Society of Manitoba
Animal Donation, White Pelicans, 1968

Dieter Schwanke, 1968



The adventurers' return

Part of the crew



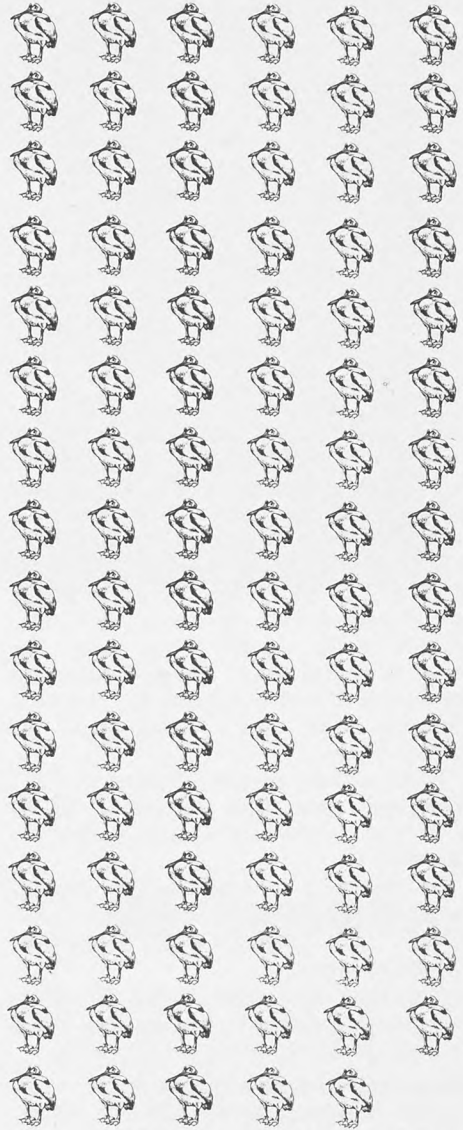
Dieter Schwanke, 1968

Surplus Pelicans

The American White Pelican, *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*, is a native bird of Manitoba. As a matter of fact, it is not even considered a rare bird in our province.

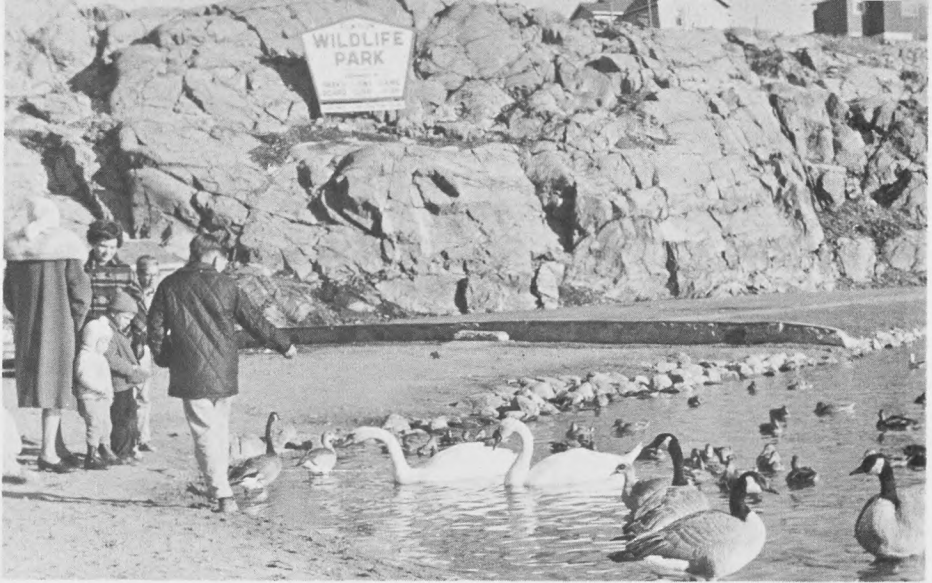
In past years, our Assiniboine Park Zoo sent several expeditions up north to collect young Pelicans from nesting grounds. Our activities were generously supported with advice from the Manitoba Wildlife Branch and the Delta Waterfowl Research Station and materially by the late Mr. Murphy of the East Meadows Ranch. We managed to establish a reputation among North American Zoos of being a supplier of well-trained, healthy young Pelicans. Before we contemplated shipping the birds elsewhere, we saw to it that they were well adjusted to a feeding routine by their keepers.

As you read elsewhere in this issue of Zoolog, the expedition in 1968 was under auspices of the Zoological Society of Manitoba. It had been arranged between the Society and the Parks Division of Metropolitan Winnipeg that no more than six birds would be collected and given to the Zoo. We chose this limited number because we were sure of having customers for all six of these Pelicans. In view of our limited winter accommodations, we just could not afford carrying any Pelicans over into the winter months. Now, where are the six young birds to go? The Zoo of Abilene in Texas is headed by an ambitious director, who at one time was the assistant to the Zoo director at Como Park Zoo in St. Paul, Minnesota. This gentleman is buying four of the Pelicans from us, and we are presently investigating whether Trans Texas Airways will accept the airfreight crates on a haul from Dallas to Abilene. If not, the Abilene Zoo will have to send a truck to the International Airport at Dallas, Texas. The other two Pelicans will find a home at the Zoo directed by the President of the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums, Mr. Clayton Freiheit, at Buffalo, New York. Clayton is determined to make his Zoological Park the "jewel among the better medium-sized Zoological Gardens of America". Our Pelicans will help him achieve that noble goal.



This is the number of Pelicans caught and traded over the years at Assiniboine Park Zoo. As Pelicans are very plentiful in Manitoba, and as the Zoo is very conscious of conservation, you may rest assured that the Pelican population of Manitoba has not been seriously reduced. In fact, a great increase in their numbers has taken place on the island where all our Pelicans have been caught.

**Dr. Gunter Voss, Director
Assiniboine Park Zoo**



About ten years ago, when Lawrence (Hammy) Hamilton began feeding a few wild ducks on a patch of water in the heart of Flin Flon, known as Hapnot Lake, he little thought his hobby would result in the establishment of a wild bird sanctuary in the heart of this mining community.

Today, over 100 Mallards are raised on the lake each year, and every fall now, between 700 and 800 Mallards arrive at the lake for morning and evening feeding, on their way south.

The Flin Flon Wildlife Park Association was formed in 1962. With sponsorship and assistance—financial and otherwise—from the Flin Flon Parks Board, Flin Flon Lions Club, the Game and Fish Association, and area groups and residents through donations and an annual tag day, the park has become a place of summer refuge for hundreds of wild birds, and a tremendous attraction for visitors.

When the Association was formed, first thoughts were for the care and feeding of the birds. Then followed the gradual development of the immediate area to make it attractive.

The project over the past six years has developed a beautiful array of flowers surrounding a wishing well for its immediate approach, and a drive-in area from which visitors can view the lake, the birds and three fountain sprays of water reaching skyward from the lake, through which vari-colored lights filter in the evenings.

Flin Flon Wildlife Park

The flowers are the special pride and joy of George Emerson, vice-president of the Parks Board and a director of Wildlife Parks Association, who each year spends many hours in caring for them.

Dave Watson was the Association's first president, along with Allan Pollmeier as vice-president and Harry Lofendale as secretary-treasurer, the latter still serving in that capacity.

Mr. Pollmeier and Ivor Hedman each served two years as president and the current president, Robert Davies is in his second term. George Danko is vice-president. Directors include, Mr. Hamilton, John Siryj, George Emerson, Frank Guymer, Wilf Strandberg, Harvey Lamont, Elmer Gohl, Ivor Hedman and Frank Kiss.

From "Northern Lights"



Samples of
structures at Assiniboine Park Zoo . . .

. . . for Polar Bears

Our Zoo

Animal

Collection (8)

In one of the first letters to my parents after I had arrived in Manitoba in February of 1959, I tried to describe Manitoba zoologically in pointing out what extremes can be encountered in our dear province — that the Ruby-throated Humming Bird as well as the Polar Bear are breeding species in this great province of ours. Humming Birds are rarely seen in the Zoo area proper, but commonly around the Duck Pond outside of the enclosed Zoo. Polar Bears must not be expected at large and, fortunately, have never been at large in historical times in the area of our Assiniboine Park Zoo. However, they have long formed a portion of our animal collection. There was one huge Polar Bear in our Zoo, called "Snow Ball", which had been given to the City of Winnipeg Parks Board when it outgrew the size of its cage in the City Zoo of Fort William. Another two Polar Bears of very good size were kept together with Snow Ball and lived at our Zoo for a number of years. When the time came that the Bear moats had to be rebuilt, we found ourselves unable to accommodate large Polar Bears anywhere else in the Zoo area. Therefore, we had to trade them or sell them to another institution. While everybody considers a

baby Polar Bear as a darling exhibit, there are not so many customers around for fully grown specimens. Through the efforts of a dealer in the southern United States, we finally managed to find a customer for our three adult Bears in Ohio. It was with serious regret that we saw those magnificent specimens leave our Zoo.

After having completed the rebuilding job of our Bear moats, a job, by the way, which has met with a great deal of acclaim and praise by the public, we had to populate the new enclosures, grottos and ponds. Just lately, we have managed to introduce the new female and male Polar Bears peacefully to each other. Our male is a specimen from Baffin Island, out of the Canadian Arctic, while the two females are probably of European background, most likely collected around Spitzbergen off the Norwegian coast. The animals are young yet, but we are hopeful that they will eventually mate and reproduce successfully.

By and large, the reproduction of Polar Bears in Zoological Parks has been unsatisfactory. There are a very few notable exceptions, such as in the Zoological Gardens of Nuernberg, Detroit and Milwaukee, but altogether the ratio of success has remained disappointing.



... for the hoped for Grizzly Bears

The director of the Royal Zoological Gardens of Amsterdam, Holland jointly with another two scientists, have just issued a rather comprehensive paper on Polar Bear reproduction in captivity. He admits that his study is carried out in midstream, so to say, as the scattered reports on past instances of success do not provide a comprehensive recipe yet, but expresses hope that the observations expressed in his paper will aid Zoological Parks to accomplish better results in the future. The authors take the praiseworthy approach of recommending a proper design for a Polar Bear maternity den based on studies of these dens in nature. Pregnant female Polar Bears in their native haunts will dig a small hole in ice-crusted snow, usually less than five miles away from the coast. Slopes with an incline of up to 45° are preferred. When new snow falls, it buries the female.

The result is a maternity den with a narrow tunnel connecting to the open air. Consequently then, a very seclusive maternity den with only one door is required in captivity. This door should connect to a passageway in which water and food can be provided and from which there would be access to an outside grotto. The most important factor is lack of disturbance. For some reason or another, a few Polar Bears will huddle and protect their cub or cubs continuously, while other females would walk away from time to time. Then it becomes imperative to provide the necessary protective heat for the cubs and it is for this reason that more and more Zoos are installing electric floor heating in their cubbing dens. This factor is doubtlessly of great importance during the first eight weeks of birth. Among the Zoos which have provided electric heat there are the Zoological



... for Black Bears

Parks of Amsterdam in Holland, Bristol in England, and Wuppertal in Germany. Without any question, there are more Zoos with similar installations. I personally remember a visit to the Whipsnade Zoological Gardens of the Zoological Society of London during a winter period. At that time the famous Whipsnade Zoo provided artificial heat only in four locations, if I remember correctly: for the Pygmy Hippos, for the Indian Rhinos, for Gibbons and for a nursing female Polar Bear. As a matter of fact, it appeared to me that the Polar Bear den was better heated than the other accommodations. Whipsnade has been successful in the raising of Polar Bear cubs repeatedly.

The time of birth of Polar Bears in nature as well as in captivity is usually in November and December, and the number of young can vary from one to three, but three in one litter are found quite rarely.

As far as we know, a female Polar Bear will not give birth before she is five years old. A Polar Bear called "Sultana I" gave birth at an age of twenty-four years yet.

Gunter Voss
Dr. rer. nat.

On Mushrooms



Amanita muscaria

At this time of year, particularly following such extended wet periods as we in Manitoba have experienced during the past month, many people take to the countryside to collect mushrooms.

This popular interest in mushrooms arises chiefly from their food value, many species being highly prized as table delicacies far more tasty than the commercial mushrooms which can be purchased in stores. However, this use of wild mushrooms as food not infrequently has a most unfortunate consequence: mushroom poisoning.

It should be stressed that not many species of mushrooms are deadly poisonous, but those that are, such as the poisonous species of *Amanita*, often result in a very painful death. *Amanita virosa*, possibly the most deadly of Canadian mushrooms, is particularly insidious for, if eaten in error, it causes no ill effects until the toxins are absorbed in the blood stream. By this time the usual treatments used for ingested poisons are of no avail and a very high percentage of deaths results.

Dr. J. W. Groves, in his excellent book entitled "Edible and Poisonous Mushrooms of Canada" available from the Queen's Printer, describes in a very readable fashion the different types of mushroom poisoning and makes a point I wish to stress here: there are a number of different types of mushroom poisoning. Thus while poisoning by such species as *Amanita virosa* very frequently results in death even though some treatments oc-

asionally induce recovery, in order for other types of mushroom poisoning to be treated properly, it is best if the attending physician can determine what mushroom has been ingested. Unfortunately this ideal situation can rarely be realized for usually by the time a person has become ill enough to call a doctor, it is impossible to ascertain the species which has caused the trouble.

At any time when mushroom poisoning is suspected, one should err on the side of caution rather than be afraid of feeling foolish if, at some later time, it is shown a perfectly safe mushroom was eaten. A doctor should be called at once and if there is likely to be any delay at all in obtaining medical assistance, the patient should be induced to vomit and any appropriate means, such as an enema or purgative, should be used to clear the intestinal tract. If parts of the mushroom are vomited up or if some of the suspected mushrooms are still around, these should be retained to aid in identification.

This unfortunate consequence can be avoided if all mushroom collectors follow a few simple rules and remember there are pitfalls into which even the most experienced person can stumble from time to time.

The first thing is to know how to collect mushrooms. The proper techniques are probably familiar to most readers of this note, but they are worth stressing for it is at this point many of the errors arise which will ultimately result in poisoning.

1. Make notes on colour, habitat, and any other character used in keys at the time of collecting. Do not trust your memory.

2. Never mix two or more types of mushroom in one collecting bag. You could very easily leave one poisonous fruiting body in with non-poisonous ones at the time of sorting.

3. Assume only that fruiting bodies growing in very close association or clusters are the same species. Never mix in ones that "look alike" when they are growing even short distances apart. This could be disastrous.

4. Know the characters and structures used in identifying mushrooms and be sure you pick specimens, which, with as high a degree of certainty as is humanly possible, possess these characters. For example, simply cutting the stalk or stipe at ground level could result in your leaving the base of the stipe with the universal veil or volva in the ground. Since the presence of the volva is a critical factor in recognizing the members of the genus *Amanita* mentioned above, this could be a fatal mistake.

5. Collect a range of fruiting bodies in various stages of development from a cluster and refer to all stages in making an identification. It is possible, in older fruiting bodies, that some of the features such as scales on the cap or the annulus (a ring of tissue left on the stipe from the torn partial veil, a membrane which covers the gills in the young fruit bodies) might have disappeared due to weathering etc. The genus *Amanitopsis* is very similar to the genus *Amanita* but lacks an annulus. Thus an *Amanita* from which the annulus has been lost could be easily misidentified.

6. Unless you are experienced, never try to identify a mushroom by using a key or photographs - even an experienced collector should not simply compare pictures.

It is best for the beginner to start by collecting mushrooms with an experienced collector. In this way he will become familiar with the characters used in identifying mushrooms and can build up a familiarity with a group of species which will serve as a starting point for expanding his knowledge of other species. It will also enable him to see how species vary, for some species do vary greatly and even specialists often have difficulty in assigning specific names to some of the more variable mushrooms.

Another point to remember is that not all people react to a species in the same way. In using the various field keys or manuals, you will note that phrase "edible for most people". For various reasons, some people can be made ill by eating mushrooms which others can eat with impunity. Thus, when eating any mushroom for the first time, even when you are certain of its identity, eat only very small amounts, increasing portions gradually on subsequent occasions. Never expect your reaction to be the same as even members of your own family.

Mushrooms should not be allowed to deteriorate before eating. When you know your specimen and that you can eat it, use it when it is fresh. Sometimes non-poisonous species, while not really becoming deadly poisonous, can cause rather unpleasant effects if they have started to deteriorate.

It has not been my intention to make the reader so afraid that he or she will avoid all mushrooms like the plague and never enjoy the delicate flavour and wonderful addition prized species can make to a meal. However, it is necessary for everyone to know the edible species with certainty before the pleasures of mushroom eating can be enjoyed without hazard.

In closing, let me finally point out that none of the tests such as whether the cap peels or not have any validity in assessing whether a mushroom is poisonous or not. The only safe way is to know your mushrooms and when in the slightest doubt, don't eat it.

Recommended manuals:

1. Christensen, C.M. Common fleshy fungi. Burgess Publishing Company.
2. Groves, J. W. Mushroom collecting for beginners. Information Branch, Canada Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, Canada.
3. Groves, J. W. Edible and poisonous mushrooms of Canada. Any outlet of the Queen's Printer of Canada.
4. Lange, M. and F. B. Hora. Collins guide to mushrooms and toadstools. Collins, London.
5. Smith, A. H. The mushroom hunter's field guide. The University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor.

**Dr. James Reid,
Associate Professor,
Botany Department,
University of Manitoba**

Two Quotes

The black prairie was built by the prairie plants,
a hundred distinctive species of grasses, herbs and shrubs;
by the prairie fungi, insects and bacteria;
by the prairie mammals and birds, all interlocked in one
humming community of cooperations and competitions,
one biota.

This biota, through ten thousand years of living and dying,
burning and growing, preying and fleeing, freezing and thawing,
built that dark and bloody ground we call prairie.

Aldo Leopold

It was all prices to them; they never looked at it;
why should they look at the land?

They were Empire Builders; it was all in the bid
and the asked and the ink on their books. . . .

Archibald MacLeish
"Wildwest"

Letter to the Editor

In the Zoolog Volume 9, No. 2 there are two articles of particular interest to Aquarists. One is by professor R. A. Brust on Mosquito research and control, the other is by Dr. Jennifer M. Walker. As president of the Winnipeg Aquarium Society I like to make some comments on the type of research pursued by the writers. We the Aquarists of Winnipeg and other large centers, are probably the one group most affected by the chemical warfare against the mosquito. For the well-being of our Aquarium denizens we venture out to the creeks, ponds and ditches in the city and its vicinity to gather food in the form of mosquito larvae and minute crustaceans. In the past decade mosquito control has become more and more active due to public demand and with it the ponds and ditches supporting live food suitable for fish are ever diminishing. We are not opposed to chemicals which attack the mosquito or its larvae, since there is little we could do about a program that is fighting against a pest for the comfort of the public. We are, however, opposed to chemicals or methods that would eradicate all other inhabitants of temporary or permanent bodies of water.

So far it has been observed that the chemicals used to date only subdue the occurrence of the sought after crustaceans right after application. I fear however, that a program in which the Fathead minnow (*Pimephales promelas*), or any other minnow for that matter, is used, would not only mean the end of the mosquito, but along with it the end of the crustaceans as a whole in temporary and permanent pools. As the head of the W.A.S. and in the name of our members I would like to emphasize our existence and our dependence on the other habitants of the environment of Mosquito larvae and urge the Department of Entomology and any other body engaged in Mosquito Control to abstain from the use of minnows. We appreciate the lines along which Dr. K. N. Saxena is working, we hope that soon fortune will be kind to him and he will find what he is seeking. If we as a group, or individuals of our group, could be of any assistance we are herewith offering our help.

Algae, as stated in Dr. Walker's article, is the food of the crustaceans mentioned in my former comment and rightly named the most vital part of the complex food web of any lake or pond. In such a lake everything is fine until man causes a disturbance and upsets the lifecycle of the web. We are most concerned with what is happening right here. The growth of Winnipeg represents a drain on the city's water supply, which in turn upsets the balance in the supplying unit causing heavy blooms of algae, which are quite objectionable to the general public. This is combated by adding certain amounts of copper sulphate and chlorine to the water. Ordinarily we are not bothered by these chemicals, but at times these concentrations become so strong that the water becomes harmful to our in many cases rather delicate fish. There is also the matter of fish diseases which are transferred to our fish through our water supply. Any free swimming fish parasite, virus or bacteria prevailing in our water supply is pumped directly to the consumer. This may go unnoticed by the majority of consumers, but the aquarists are at times faced with epidemics of diseases only common to local fish, which find in the warmer environment of our fish an ideal host. This causes a lot of hardship for us. We believe that it is high time that something is done to purify our water supply. If at this stage we can not afford to install purification plants, other means should be sought to attack the problem. On the matter of algae I am thinking of predators to algae. As there exist among the tropical fishes several species which exist entirely on the consumption of algae, so I believe exist, among the species of fish in the moderate and cold water climate zones, species that live on algae and could be adapted to live either in our water supply source or in our reservoirs for the sole purpose of subduing the algae growth. On the matter of purifying, the water could be let over banks of ultraviolet light and the so killed bacteria filtered or settled out. The increased initial cost could probably be absorbed in the saving of chemicals and in the manufacture of fertilizers from the settlements. These systems work on a small scale around the aquarium and I believe that they are adaptable to big operations.

Herb Brock

Prof. H.E. Welsh,
110 Thatcher Drive,
FORT GARRY 19, Manitoba.

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Honour Roll

THESE MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE LAST FIVE YEARS
ARE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED

Manitoba Wildlife Branch

Animal Donations, Native Animals, 1963,
1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968

Zoological Society of Manitoba

Moated Pens and Shelter, for Carnivores,
1963

Royal Trust Company

Animal Donation, Pandas, 1965

Carling Breweries Manitoba Ltd.

Animal Donation, Lions, 1964

Bearing Supply & Service Ltd.

Animal Donation, Gibbons, 1964

The Airliner Motor Hotel

Animal Donation, Ducks, 1964

TransAir Limited

Animal Donation, Birds, 1964

Federal Electric Corp. and Govt. of Can.

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Animal Donation, Monal Pheasants, 1968

Mr. Fred H. Gauer, Lac du Bonnet

Accommodation for Lesser Pandas, 1968

Canadian Indemnity Company

Accommodation for Keas, 1968

Zoological Society of Manitoba

Animal Donation, White Pelicans, 1968

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Society of Manitoba. Donations are accepted by our Zoological
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